



apb FORUM

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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE COMMON WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

AREA PLANNING BOARD RECIPIENT OF EPA GRANT

On May 29, 1975, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Area Planning Board (APB) a Section 208 (PL 92-500) grant of \$984,000 to develop an areawide water quality planning program for Palm Beach County. In order to qualify for the grant, the APB had to document that the County had water quality problems that could not be solved by applying basic technological solutions alone. In support of this effort, each of the thirty seven municipalities in Palm Beach County, along with the Board of County Commissioners, have adopted formal resolutions indicating their recognition of water quality control problems and their intent to cooperate with other local governments to develop and implement an "Area-wide Waste Treatment Management Plan" ("208 Plan").

PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

The most important aspect of "208" planning is that local governments in a designated planning area are called upon to select a management arrangement to carry out actions specified in the Plan. This arrangement may range from a single agency to an integrated system of agencies and government organizations. In effect, the people of Palm Beach County, through resolutions adopted by local governments, have mandated that a management system be created to solve their common water quality problems. Therefore, the success of the "208" Plan depends upon the acceptance of an areawide water quality management system by elected/appointed officials and the general public. To achieve this acceptance, the total community must be involved, from the beginning, in the development of this system.

"208" PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

In order to stimulate total involvement, the APB has adopted the "208" Public Participation Program (available at the APB office upon request). Basic program objectives are:

1. Active public involvement, on a representative basis, throughout the "208" planning period.
2. An Areawide Waste Treatment Management Plan ("208" Plan) that is acceptable to each governmental unit in the planning area.

To achieve these objectives, extensive public exposure is planned throughout the "208" planning period using the following tools:

A. Public Hearings and Workshops

Public hearings will be conducted at appropriate times throughout the planning program to solicit formal public input into the various "208" Plan elements. Workshops will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis. These will either be oriented to the general public or directed to a smaller group discussing technical issues.

B. Formal "208" Committee Structure

An "Areawide Advisory Group" and three structured committees will be used as vehicles to incorporate general citizen, special interest groups, governmental and technical expertise into the planning program.

C. Information Office

An extensive library has been compiled on water quality and related subjects at the Area Planning Board (APB) office. These sources are available for public perusal upon request. In addition, members of the APB Staff are available for speaking engagement at the request of interested organizations or groups.

D. Newsletters

The APB Staff will prepare "208" newsletters throughout the planning period addressing issues of interest to the public.

E. Media Exposure

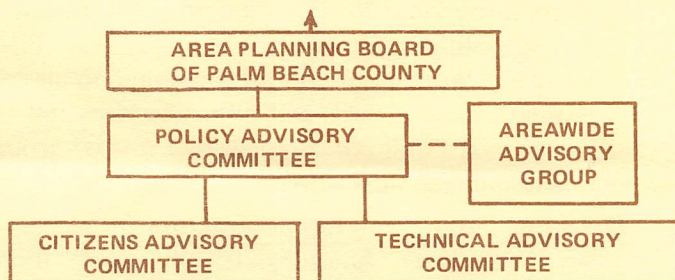
The APB Staff will seek the maximum media coverage possible in order to expose the general public to the "208" program.

Important planning phases that require public input include identification of local water quality issues and needs, development of alternative problem solutions and the evaluation and selection of final plans and management arrangements.

"208" ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

A key aspect of the public participation program is the initial formulation and continuous use of input from both citizen and technical groups. It is through this input that implementable water quality decisions can be formulated. To stimulate this input, an unstructured public forum, the Areawide Advisory Group, and three structured committees (i.e. Policy Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Citizens Advisory Committee) have been formed. Each of these bodies acts as an advisor/sounding board for recommendations prepared for the Area Planning Board's consideration by the "208" project team (i.e. APB "208" staff and contracted consultants). The APB has final responsibility for approval of the "208" Plan at the local level.

STATE, FEDERAL CERTIFICATION



All "208" committee meetings are open to the general public. Meetings are held in the Area Planning Board Conference Room, 2300 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., West Palm Beach. For those wishing to attend, the meeting schedule is as follows:

1. Technical Advisory Committee - Second Wednesday of the month; 10:00 A.M.
2. Citizens Advisory Committee - Second Wednesday of the month; 1:30 P.M.
3. Policy Advisory Committee - Second Friday of the month; 10:00 A.M.

The Areawide Advisory Group does not have regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings will be called by the Policy Advisory Committee on an "as needed" basis.



"208" CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Left to Right) Tom Woolbright, Lolly Kempton, Henry Watkins, Ernest Chick, Vernon Manz (Chairman), Karen Olson, Marjorie Gordon. Other voting members not shown: George Wedgeworth, Alice Skaggs (Vice Chairman), Percy Lee, Cathy Horton, Walter Brandon.

SPOTLIGHT - "208" CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

The CAC is composed of twelve voting members and approximately twenty-five non-voting members. Voting members were appointed by the Area Planning Board from a list of organizations, businesses, etc. expressing interest in the "208" program. Non-voting membership is open to any club, organization, business, individual, etc.

Voting Members - Citizens Advisory Committee

Vernon F. Manz, Chairman - Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group
Alice Skaggs, Vice Chairman - Office of Consumer Affairs
George Wedgeworth - Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative
John A. Knippel - Home Builders & Contractors Ass'n. of Palm Beach County
Ernest Chick - Delray Beach Board of Realtors
Henry Watkins - Service Corps of Retired Executives (S.C.O. R. E.)
Lolly Kempton - League of Women Voters
Percy H. Lee - Urban League of Palm Beach County
Cathy Horton - Nat'l. Organization for Women
Karen Olson - Royal Palm Audubon Society
Walter Brandon - Wildlife Conservation League of Palm Beach County
Marjorie Gordon - Pine Jog Environmental Services Center

The CAC is charged with performing the following basic tasks:

1. Become informed representatives of selected interests or organizations relative to the "208" planning process. Act as liason between the "208" project team and these interests.
2. Act as an "early warning" mechanism for the detection of controversial issues that may arise during the planning period so that these issues may be addressed at the earliest possible time.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES PROVE EFFECTIVENESS

In its first big test, the "208" committee structure was proven to be an effective mechanism for voicing the concerns of Palm Beach County citizens. The issue was whether to utilize population projections for "208" planning prepared by University of Florida

(863,200 for the year 2000) as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency, or those prepared by the Area Planning Board staff (1,414,000 for the year 2000). Knowing that the 1976 population figure for the County was approximately 543,000, the committees felt that the University of Florida figure for the year 2000 was low. Following the recommendations of each committee, the Area Planning Board directed the staff to negotiate with the University of Florida for a compromise figure more in line with current population levels and growth trends. The result of the negotiations was a compromise projection figure of 1,045,000 for the year 2000. Certainly the full support of the committee structure and formal Area Planning Board action on the issue led to its timely resolution.

APB STAFF SHOWS "DIRTY" SLIDES

The Area Planning Board staff has produced an audio/visual slide show introducing the "208" program by highlighting several of the causes of Palm Beach County's "dirty" waters.



The quality of our waters is determined primarily by what we put in them or allow to reach them.

It is intended for use as an educational device for organizations, clubs, schools, etc. interested in gaining an understanding of how our waters have become polluted, and the approach that the "208" program is taking to institute a comprehensive "clean up" system. In addition, the APB has staff available for speaking engagements as a supplement to the slide presentation. Arrangements for group presentations may be made by contacting Mr. Frank W. Brutt,

Executive Director of the Area Planning Board at: Telephone number 683-9450; or Mr. Richard Stalker, Director of Environmental Planning for the Area Planning Board at telephone number 689-6880.

"208" PLANNING TERMINOLOGY

The Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (PL 92-500) is the most complex, comprehensive water quality law ever passed by Congress. Section 208 of the Act provides 100% Federal funding to local governments that agree to work together to solve their common water quality problems. One of the stipulations attached to the grant is that the management system devised must be implemented. Therefore, it is in the best interests of each local government involved to become aware of the "208" program and its implications. Therefore, in an effort to inform Palm Beach County municipalities about "208", each APB Forum addressing the subject will include a section defining some of the language and terminology used in the program.

"208" Designated Planning Area - Palm Beach County and that portion of the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District within Martin County, as a result of identifying severe areawide water quality problems, was designated by the Governor, in January, 1975, as a "208" planning area.

"208" Planning Agency - The APB was designated by the Governor, in January, 1975, as the agency to prepare the "208" plan.

"208" Planning Process - The process is composed of two parts; the initial two-year program, and the continuing planning process. During the initial program, high priority problems will be studied and solutions recommended. Also, a management structure will be developed to implement recommendations and address additional water quality problems during the continuing planning process.

Technical Supplement - A report prepared, in April of 1976, by the APB describing the water quality problems of Palm Beach County using existing water quality sampling data. This document was used to prioritize water quality problems so that the most severe could be dealt with first.

Plan of Study - A document prepared, in September of 1976, detailing the work to be performed during the initial two-year planning program. Primary study areas are stormwater runoff from agricultural and urban areas.

"208" Management Agency - The water quality management structure to be established at the completion of the initial "208" Plan. It is important to remember that the term "Agency", as used here, can be a single central agency or an arrangement of several agencies.

AREA PLANNING BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

James Jones CHAIRMAN	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Charles W. Potter VICE CHAIRMAN	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Thomas Altman	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Peggy B. Evatt	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners Palm Beach County
Robert Harp	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Dr. Bernard Kimmel	Appointed by:	School Board of Palm Beach County
W. H. Medlen	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners Palm Beach County
R. William Rutter Jr.	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners Palm Beach County
Dorothy H. Wilken	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Frank W. Brutt	Executive Director	

Florence E. Biller, Director
PBC Library System

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NEWSLETTER OF THE AREA PLANNING BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY 2300 PALM BEACH LAKES BLVD., WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33409